

VLR-9/17/74 NRHP-11/6/74

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Gloucester
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lands End

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Lands End

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: On Robins Neck and .2 miles north of Severn River between Whitaker Creek and Turtle Neck Point; .6 miles southeast of Eastern end of Rt. 614.

CITY OR TOWN: (Naxera Vicinity) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First (Thomas N. Downing)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Gloucester CODE: 073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Claude O. Lanciano, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3 Box 370

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Gloucester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)

TITLE OF SURVEY: (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lands End is located near the southeastern tip of Robins Neck overlooking the Severn River, a tributary of Mobjack Bay. The land around the house is low and marshy causing the house to take on its somewhat unusual form. Its basement is fully above grade giving the house an extremely high water table and a distinctive verticality. This verticality is emphasized by the single-pile plan and the steeply-pitched gambrel roof.

Aside from its verticality, the architecture of Lands End is typical of better quality late-eighteenth-century farmhouses of Tidewater Virginia. Its walls are laid in Flemish bond both above and below the high beveled water table. Simple gauged jack arches are employed above all the windows. The brickwork has been painted white but the paint is being allowed to weather off. The three-bay facade has a center door on the basement and first-floor levels. The first-floor entrance is sheltered by a pedimented porch supported on tall brick piers. The porch has been largely rebuilt, but its form is based on earlier porches. Its present stair arrangement is modern, however.

Interior chimneys are at either end of the gambrel roof, and simple box cornices line its eaves. The gabled dormers have six-over-six pane sashes as do the basement windows. The taller first-floor windows have nine-over-nine sashes. Attached to the center bay of the house's rear elevation is a two-and-a-half-story brick veneered wing containing the present kitchen and master bedroom. This wing assumed its present proportions after 1927 and incorporates a one-story frame "dance parlor" added in the 1840's.

The house's interior contains two rooms and a center passage on the first and second floors. The basement originally had a partition separating the passage from the dining room to the east, but the partition has been removed. Opposite the dining room is a small room used as a study. Parlor and guest rooms are on the first floor and two bedrooms are on the second. The finish of the rooms is of the simplest type: the walls are plastered and have simple beaded baseboards. A beaded chairboard is used in the first floor passage. The outstanding interior feature is the handsome closed-string stair which ascends from the basement to the second floor. The stair has a very simple molded railing and square balusters set on a diagonal. Most of the interior woodwork is original including paneled doors and door surrounds, window reveals, flooring and stair. The mantels on the basement and first-floor levels appear to date from the mid-nineteenth century.

The house has undergone an extensive renovation in recent years and stands in excellent condition. The grounds originally had a wooden kitchen and wooden laundry flanking the house and a wooden barn 300 yards to the rear, but they no longer survive. A later secondary building stands near the site of the barn.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) <u>1796-1800</u>			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Local History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>Lands End was built between 1796 and 1800 for John Sinclair (1755-1820), a sea captain who achieved Revolutionary War fame. Reflecting the nautical attachments of its builder, the picturesque gambrel-roofed dwelling is oriented towards the water, and commands a panoramic view of Mobjack Bay's tributary, the Severn River.</p> <p>Captain Sinclair is chiefly remembered for being charged to carry dispatches to de Barras, the commander of the French fleet stationed in Newport, Rhode Island. This action made possible the rendezvous of the greater part of the Colonial and allied navies off Yorktown, thus ensuring victory for the American cause by forcing the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. Other Revolutionary accomplishments of Captain Sinclair were summarized in a statement issued in 1787 recommending Sinclair be given the post of Commander of State Boats. The recommendation noted that Sinclair was "...formerly a captain in the State navy, and among the first who took prizes from our adversaries, and who was also successful by his Privateer, and received the particular confidence of the Marquis de la Fayette. . . ." Although Sinclair did not receive the post, his recommendation was evidence of the high regard in which he was held by his contemporaries.</p> <p>In 1794 reports were received by the Collector of Norfolk that Captain Sinclair was in the process of outfitting one of his ships, the <u>Unicorn</u>, as an armed privateer to serve the French cause against the British. This was in violation of the American Proclamation of Neutrality of 1793. Troops were sent by state authorities to seize the <u>Unicorn</u> and hold her until court action should decide the issue. General John Marshall, later of U.S. Supreme Court renown, commanded the body of Richmond Cavalry dispatched to the scene, and took charge of the seizure. In his official report of the incident General Marshall stated that he observed in the local citizens "no inconsiderable degree of mortification" that there arose the necessity to call in distant troops "to protect from violence the laws of our common country." Captain Sinclair was later acquitted, but the <u>Unicorn</u>, under a different name, did eventually see service under the French flag.</p> <p>Captain Sinclair continued to act as a privateer out of the shelter of Mobjack Bay until his death in 1820. Lands End was then acquired by Cary Selden Jones, husband of Captain Sinclair's daughter, Caroline. Jones, a former Humanities student at the College of William and Mary, built the dancing parlor addition to the house in order to entertain his children's friends.</p> <p>About the year 1848, Richard P. Jones (Virginia House of Delegates, 1845-1847), no relation to Cary Selden Jones, acquired the property. Richard P. Jones died in 1883 and his brother, Judge Warner Throckmorton Jones took over care of the farm and the children of the deceased Richard. One of</p>			

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Gloucester's most prominent citizens, Judge Jones graduated in law from the College of William and Mary and was admitted to the Gloucester bar in 1840. He was Colonel of the Gloucester militia in 1861, appointed Commissioner in Chancery, and was elected Judge of Gloucester County in 1870. Judge Jones also served on the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary and was a Delegate in the General Assembly for several terms from 1855-1865 and after the reconstruction period 1871-1873. Judge Jones was a resident of Lands End for most of his life and he died there in 1891.

In 1897 the children of Richard P. Jones were forced by creditors to sell 518 acres of the estate, leaving 150 acres including the home site. The 518 acres were purchased by James Sinclair, grandson of Captain John Sinclair. James Sinclair erected a race track for horses on the property. In 1935 the surviving children of Richard P. Jones sold the remaining 150 acres to Nell Carneal Drew. The home site and 30 acres are now owned by Claude O. Lanciano, Jr., retired from services with the U.S. Department of Defense.

ASB

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

French, S. Bassett, Biographical Sketches, Virginia State Library.
 Gray, Mary Wiatt, Gloucester County, Virginia (Richmond, Cottrell and Cook, 1936).
 Gloucester County, Virginia, Surveyors Book A, 1733-1810.
 Lanciano, Claude O., Jr., Capt. John Sinclair of Virginia (Gloucester, Lands End Books, 1973).
 Lanciano, Claude O., Jr., Legends of Lands End (1971).
 Mason, Polly Cary, comp., Records of Colonial Gloucester (Newport News, 1946).
 Montague, Ludwell Lee, Gloucester County in the Civil War (Gloucester, DeHardit Press, 1965).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds
NW	37 ° 19 ' 44 "	76 ° 25 ' 42 "	°	'	"
NE	37 ° 19 ' 44 "	76 ° 25 ' 26 "			
SE	37 ° 19 ' 25 "	76 ° 25 ' 26 "			
SW	37 ° 19 ' 25 "	76 ° 25 ' 42 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **30 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: July, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title: _____
 Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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9.

Mutual Assurance Society, policy R3-V31:2-No.15, Aug., 1805; policy R5-V43-No. 1902, May, 1815.

Nicholson, Joseph, "Lands End" Glo Quips Magazine of Gloucester, April 17, 1968, p.6.

Calendar of Virginia State Papers, William P. Palmer, ed. (Richmond, 1875).

Paullin, Charles Oscar, The Navy of the American Revolution (New York, Haskell House, 1971).

Selden, Jefferson Sinclair, Jr., The Sinclair Family of Virginia (1964).

Stewart, Robert Armistead, The History of Virginia's Navy of the Revolution (Richmond, Mitchell and Hotchkiss, 1933).

Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine (Richmond, 1919-1952), Vol. VII, p. 118.

Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Virginia Historical Society, 1894-Vol. XVI, pp. 166-167.

Virginia State Library Staff, Fourteenth Annual Report of the Library Board of the Virginia State Library 1916-1917 (Richmond, Davis Bottom, 1917).

William and Mary College Quarterly (1892-), Vol. IV(1), p.188: Vol. XXV (1), p. 237: Vol. III (2), p.280: Vol. IV (2), p. 51.

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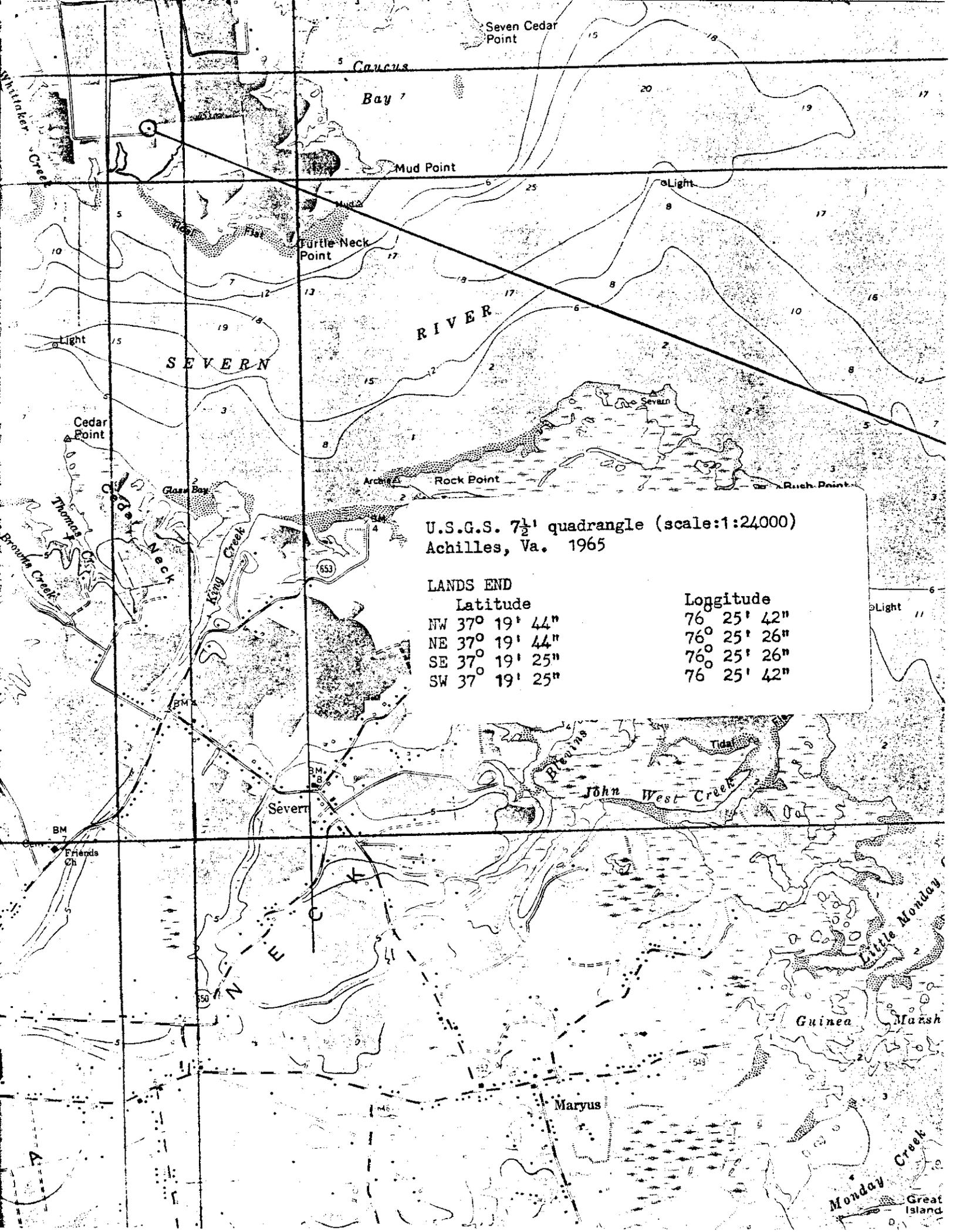
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6. Representation in Existing Surveys

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1971 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia (Code 51)



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Achilles, Va. 1965

LANDS END

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	37° 19' 44"	76° 25' 42"
NE	37° 19' 44"	76° 25' 26"
SE	37° 19' 25"	76° 25' 26"
SW	37° 19' 25"	76° 25' 42"